

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the first paragraph with:

This application ~~is related to prior~~ claims benefit to provisional application 60/100,168 filed on September 14, 1998 ~~and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/447966, filed on Nov. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,627,616, which~~ is a continuation-in-part of application 09/391,260, filed on Sep. 7, 1999, which is a division of application No. 098/975,573, filed on Nov. 21, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,265,387, which is a continuation of application No. 08/571,536, filed on Dec. 13, 1995, now abandoned.

Applicants hereby submit a marked version of the Replacement Sheet to show the changes made. Please enter Replacement Sheet 1.

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]

A PROCESS FOR DELIVERING NUCLEIC ACIDS TO CARDIAC TISSUE

5 This application ~~is related to prior~~ claims benefit to provisional application 60/100,168 filed on September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/447966, filed on Nov. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,627,616, which is a continuation-in-part of application 09/391,260, filed on Sep. 7, 1999, which is a division of application No. 098/975,573, filed on Nov. 21, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,265,387, which is a continuation of application No. 08/571,536, filed on Dec. 13, 1995, now abandoned.

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FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

15 This invention was made with United States government support from NIH Grant Number DK49117. The United States has certain rights in this invention.

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Field of the Invention

20 The invention generally relates to techniques for delivering nucleic acids to a heart for purposes of gene therapy. More particularly, the invention involves vascular delivery of DNA and RNA to a heart for gene expression or gene regulation.

Background

25 Gene therapy is an approach to treating diseases based on the expression of genes toward a therapeutic goal. Gene therapy has been discussed in the context of treating diseases although it also has a potential for disease prevention.

30 A basic challenge in gene therapy is to develop approaches for delivering genetic material to the appropriate cells of a patient in a way that is specific, efficient and safe. This problem of "drug delivery," where the gene is a drug, is particularly challenging. If genes are appropriately delivered they can potentially lead to a cure. A primary focus of gene therapy is based on strategies for delivering genes.